

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1 1. A computer-implemented method of accessing information
2 from a collection of data comprising:
3 receiving a query;
4 generating an inverse index of the collection of
5 data; and
6 generating results to the query in conjunction with
7 the inverse index.

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1 2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1 wherein
2 generating the inverse index comprises:
3 storing a canonical non-terminal representation of
4 the data in the inverse index.

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1 3. The computer-implemented method of claim 2 wherein
2 generating the inverse index further comprises:
3 storing hierarchical information generated from the
4 collection of data;
5 applying a parser and grammar rules to the
6 collection of data to produce a canonical non-terminal
7 representation of the data.

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1 4. The computer-implemented method of claim 3 wherein
2 the generating results comprises:
3 applying the parser and the grammar rules to the
4 query to produce a query canonical form; and
5 matching the query canonical form to the canonical
6 non-terminal representation of the data in the inverse index.

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1 5. A computer program, residing on a computer-readable
2 medium, comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

3 receive a query;
4 generate an inverse index of a collection of data;
5 and
6 generate results to the query in conjunction with
7 the inverse index.

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1 6. The computer program of claim 5 further comprising
2 instructions for causing the computer to:

3 store hierarchical information generated from the
4 data in the inverse index; and
5 apply a parser and grammar rules to the data to
6 produce canonical non-terminal representations of the data in
7 the inverse index.

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1 7. The computer program of claim 6 further comprising
2 instructions for causing the computer to:

3 apply the parser and grammar rules to the query to
4 generate a query canonical form; and
5 match the query canonical form to the non-terminal
6 representation of the data in the inverse index.

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